This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Genetic mouse model for autism	<p>A genetic mouse model of autism could help identify new treatments for the disorder. Mice were engineered with a 6.3-Mb duplication in a region of chromosome 7 that corresponds to a region in human chromosome 15q11–13. Duplication of human chromosome 15q11–13 is the most frequent genetic abnormality found in autistic individuals. In a series of behavioral tests, the mutant mouse displayed reduced interest in social interaction and had increased fear and anxiety responses compared with wild-type controls. Next steps include evaluating the ability of therapeutics to resolve the behavioral abnormalities seen in the mice.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1125 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	Animal model and method of generation are patented; available for licensing from Hiroshima University	<p>Nakatani, J. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online June 26, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.04.024</p> <p>Contact: Toru Takumi, Hiroshima University, Minami, Hiroshima, Japan e-mail: takumi@hiroshima-u.ac.jp</p>